Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification by adding the following before "Field of the Invention" on page 1:

-- Cross-references to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of and claims the benefit of U.S. Application No. 08/462,749, filed on June 5, 1995, now abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/140,696, filed on October 21, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,439,792, issued August 8, 1995, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 07/532,429 filed on June 4, 1990, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 07/360,513, filed on June 2, 1989, now abandoned, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 25, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Completed peptides were deprotected and cleaved from the resin by the standard high HF procedure or the low-high HF procedure of Tam et al. (J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 105:6442, 1983). Peptide was extracted from the resin in 50% acetic acid and subjected to gel chromatography in 20% acetic acid on G-25 ~~Sephadex~~ SEPHADEX® dextran beads. Fractions containing peptide were pooled and lyophilized. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 29, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Plasma samples were diluted (See Table 1) in sample dilution buffer (above) and 100 µl was added to individual wells. Samples were incubated for 30 min. at 37°C, then removed and the wells were washed six times with 0.15M NaCl, 0.05% ~~Tween~~ TWEEN® (Polysorbate) 20. One hundred microliters of goat antihuman Ig-horseradish peroxidase conjugate diluted in citrate buffer, pH 7.0, 1% normal goat serum was added to each well for 30

min at 37°C prior to washing six times as above. The ELISA assay was developed by adding 100 µl/well of substrate solution (80 µl/ml tetramethyl benzidine, 0.0015% hydrogen peroxide in citrate/phosphate buffer, pH 6.0) for 30 min. at room temperature. Reactions were stopped with the addition of 100 µl of 1N H_2SO_4 per well, and the ratio of the optical density at 450 nm to 630 nm was determined by an automated ELISA reader. The cutoff value for a positive result was set at 0.225 Absorbance Units above the average absorbance obtained for three known negative samples. The results in Table 1 show that Peptide 39GC was able to give a positive result at a higher dilution than Peptide 39. --